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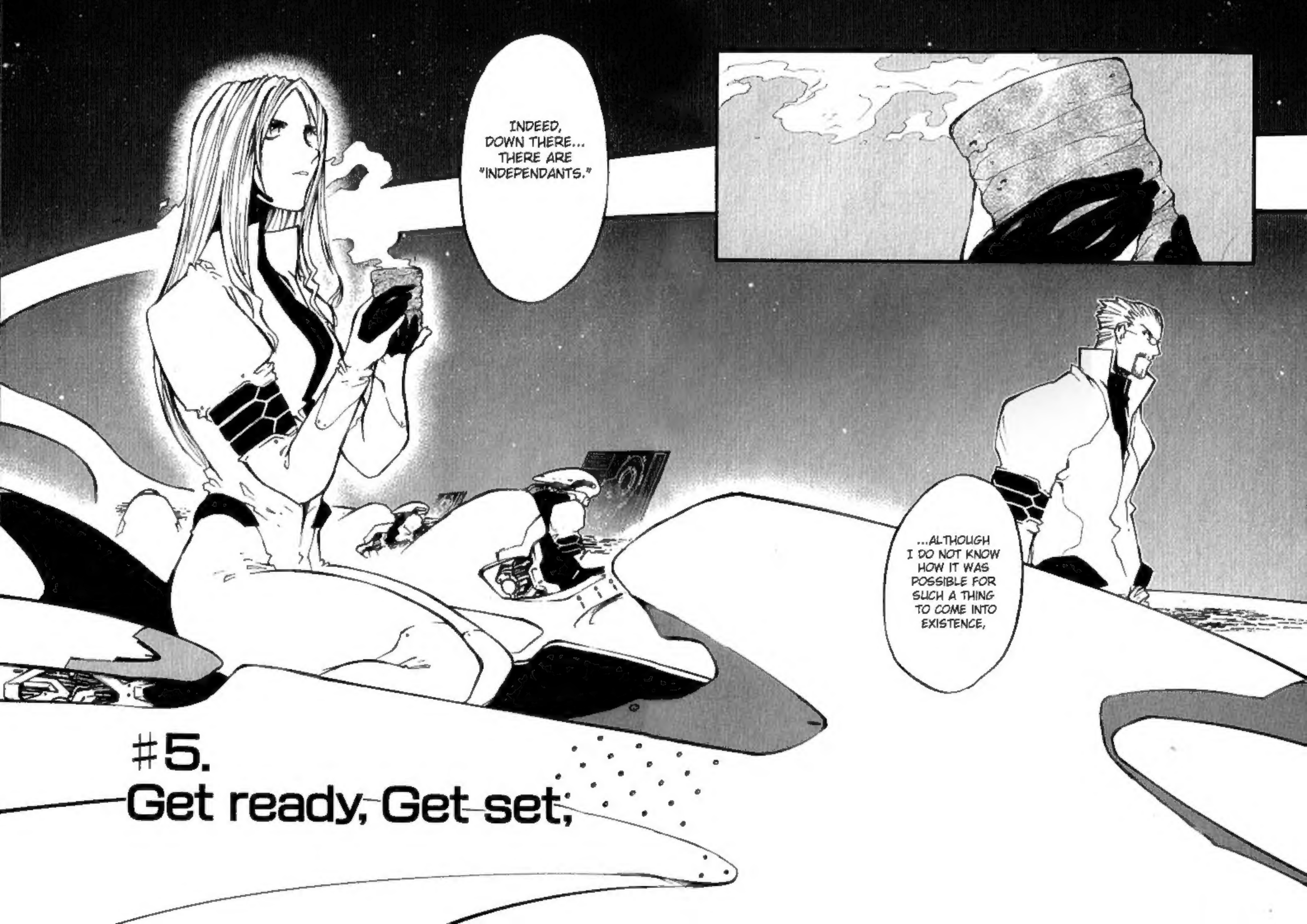
THE RESPONSE HAS DISAPPEARED ...!!

CLASS D-D! THE SIGNAL 1KM WEST HAS DISAP-PEARED! WE ARE TRYING TO RECOVER IT!



#5. Get ready, Get set,

WE MUST FIND A WAY TO GET CLOSER.
NO, IT'S TOO DIFFICULT FROM HERE ...
SHALL I SEEK THE ANSWER FROM DIVINE MEDITATION?

WE WERE IN SUCH A RUSH TO COME AND SAVE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THAT WE FAILED TO NOTICE THE MONSTER THAT STOOD WAITING FOR US.
IT SEEMS AS IF THE SITUATION IS WORSE THAN WE EXPECTED...

IN ORDER FOR ONE TO GET THIS FAR, HOWEVER, IT WOULD MEAN THAT THE "BLACK HAIR" IS NOT WORKING AS IT'S SUPPOSED TO.
YOU SEE... THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE FOR SUCH WAS TO PREVENT "INDEPENDENTS" FROM EXISTING AT ALL.

YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY YOURSELF.
IN THE END, WE BOTH SHARE THE SAME VIEWS.

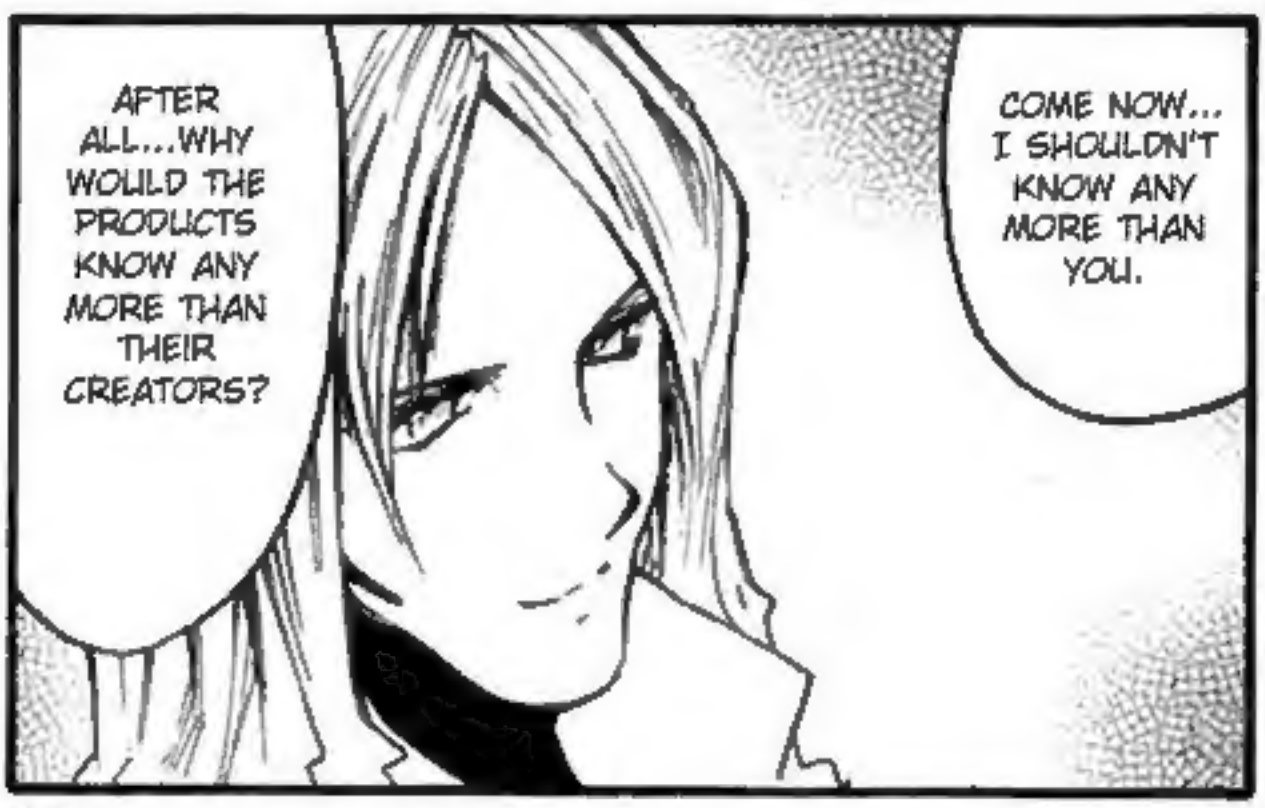
... AH.
I'M SORRY.

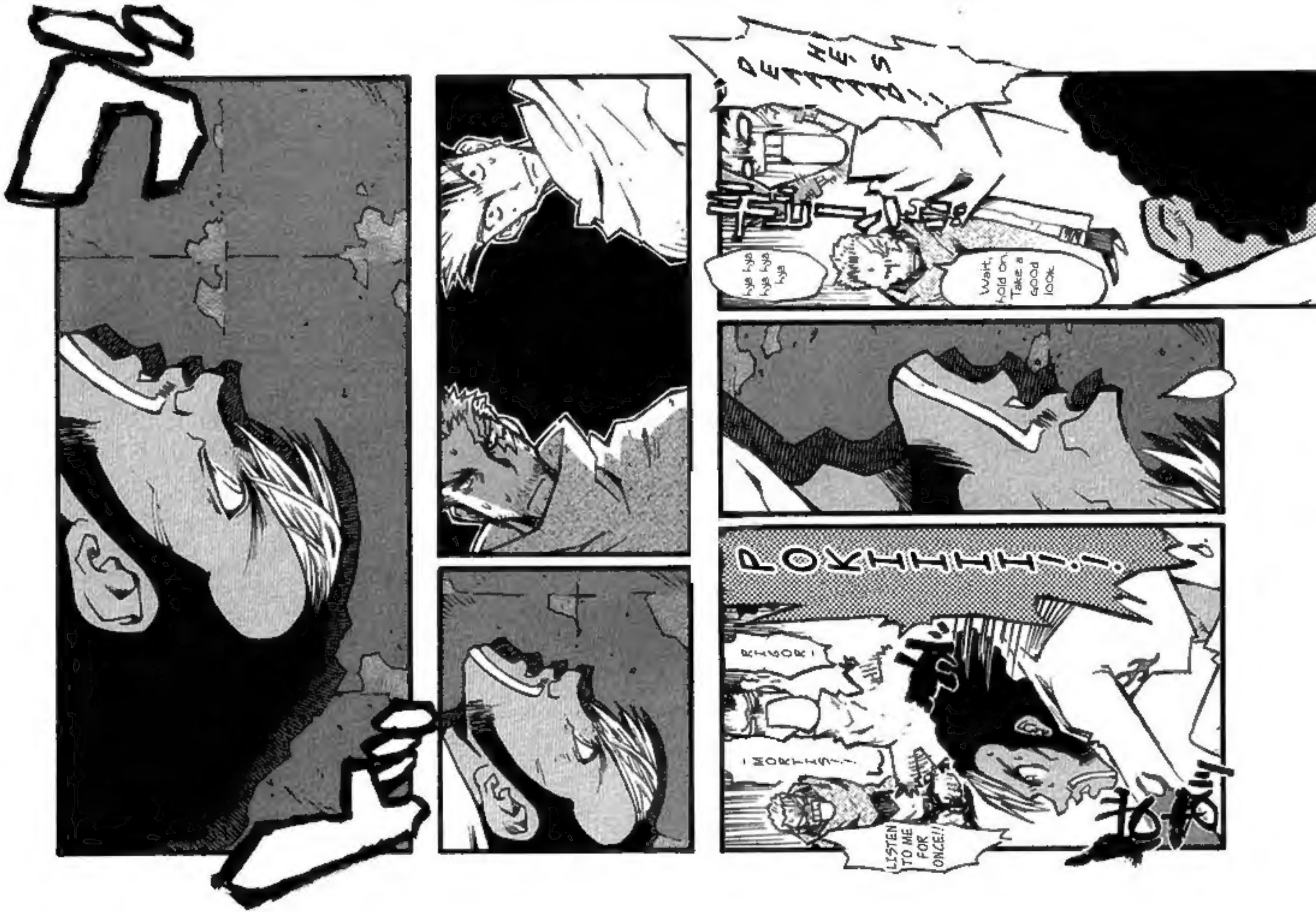
AND THAT IS...BY ABSORBING THEIR OWN BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
?
THEY MUST... HAVE FOUND THE WAY TO KEEP THE "BLACK HAIR" FROM TAKING ITS TOLL.

THAT SANDY PLANET DOWN THERE HAS NO CONNECTION WITH THIS, THOUGH.
IN OUR GENERATION, ALL OF OUR BRAINS ARE CONNECTED BY A SINGLE STEM. CALL IT "BLOCK PROGRAMMING," IF YOU WILL.

NOTHING IS A MYSTERY TO "YOU," IS IT?
...WE HAVE TO TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY.
.....

ULTI-MATELY,
ANYONE WHO ALIGHTS ONTO THAT PLANET SUFFERS THE HIGH RISK OF HAVING THEIR INDIVIDUAL AWARENESS SWALLOWED UP IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.


AFTER ALL...WHY WOULD THE PRODUCTS KNOW ANY MORE THAN THEIR CREATORS?
COME NOW... I SHOULDN'T KNOW ANY MORE THAN YOU.


Wait, hold on. Take a good look.
LISTEN TO ME FOR ONCE!!

WHAT'S WITH YOUR HAIRCUT !!

WE WANNA KNOW WHO THE HECK YOU ARE!!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!!

WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?

WHAT THE!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BETTER, CLAMS OR KINMEDAI* !!

WHY DO YOU HAVE COINS!!

WHO ARE YOU DUDES?

WHERE AM I!?

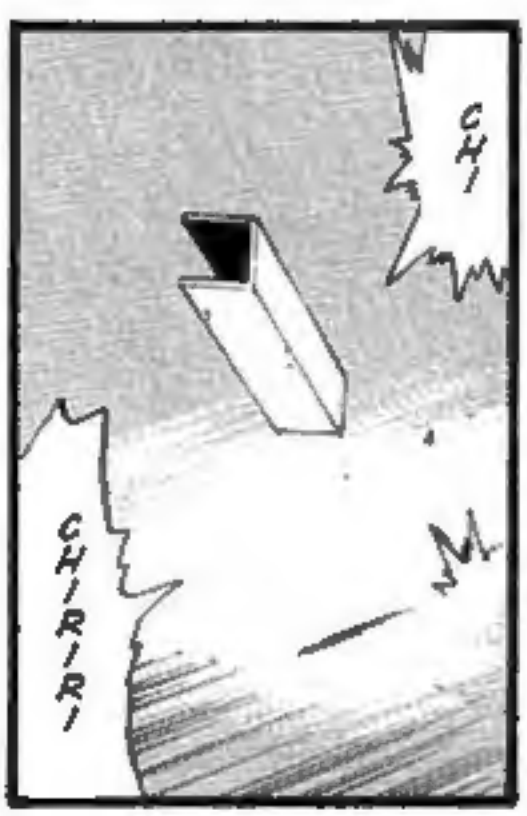
YEAH RIGHT!
....
I DON'T REMEMBER, THOUGH...

SO, UH, I...
I BROUGHT YOU THIS?

THAT MAKES SOME SENSE, DOESN'T IT?
HE WASN'T IN CONTROL OF HIS BODY SO HE COULDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.

THE WORMS MUST HAVE USED HIM AS A LASTH-DITCH EFFORT TO GET SOME-THING DONE.
MUST BE THAT...

HM?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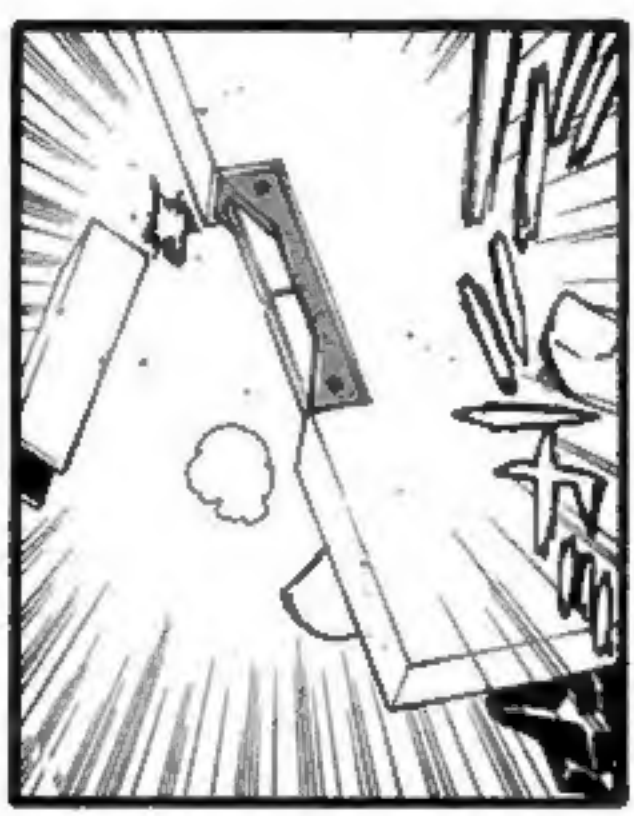
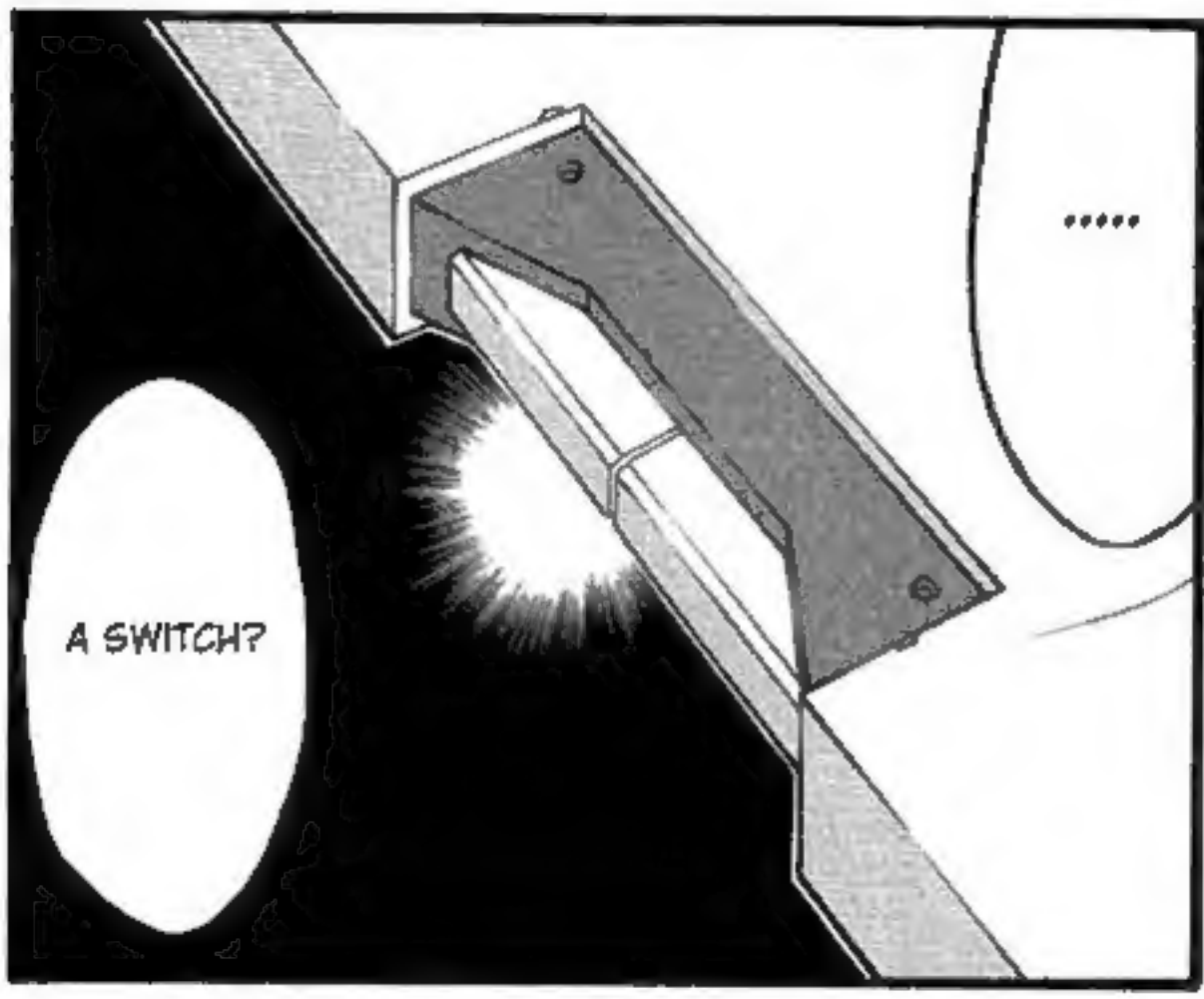


THIS IS WEIRD, THOUGH...I CLOSED IT AND LOOKED ON BOTH SIDES, BUT NOTHING SPECIAL HAPPENED AT ALL.
ALTHOUGH, IT IS KIND OF RELIEVING TO KNOW THAT NOTHING SCARY HAPPENED.

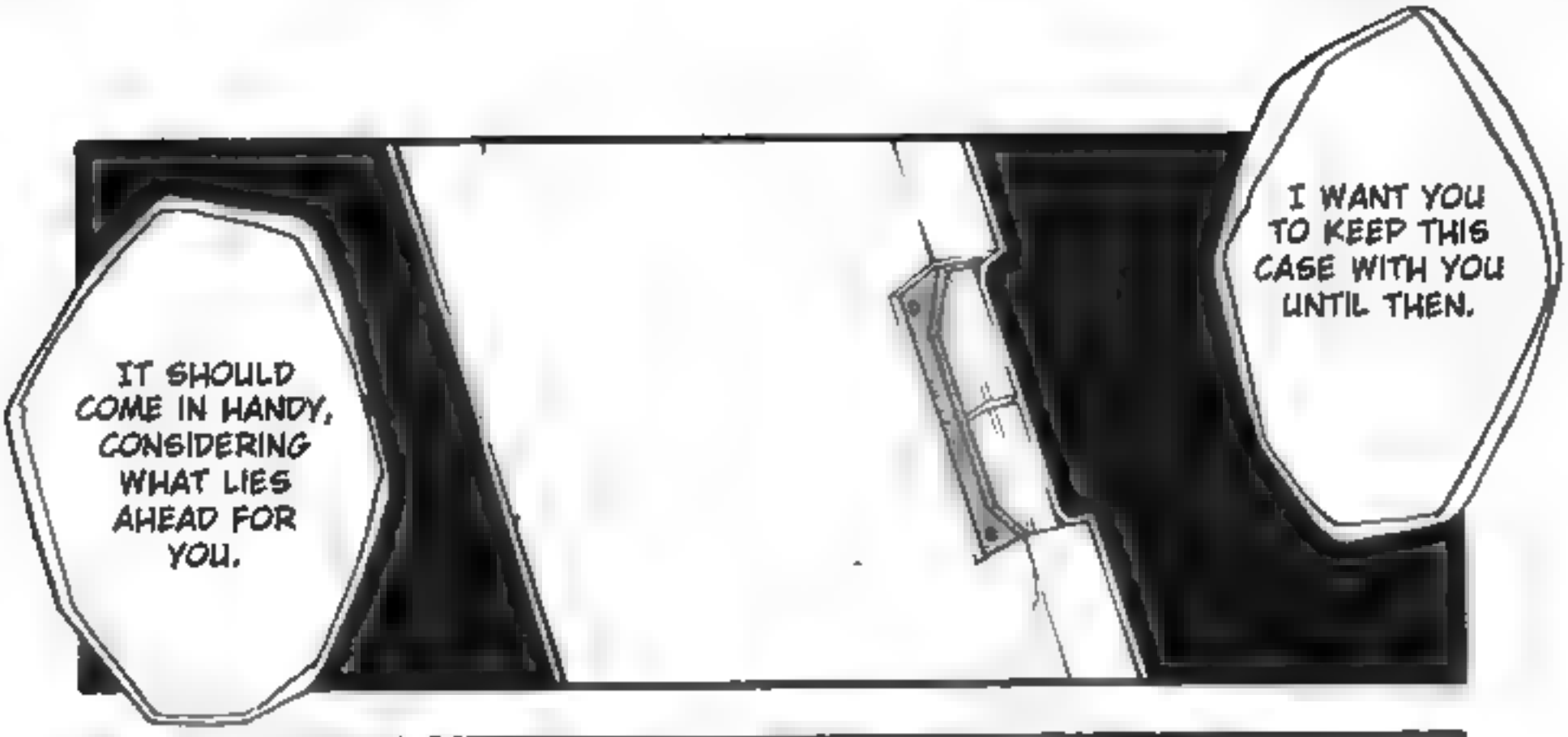

A SWITCH?
.....

WHAT ...?

LOOKS LIKE YOU COM-PLETED IT...
...VASH THE STAMPEDE.

FUHAHAHAHA.

BY THE WAY...YOU'RE PLANNING TO CHALLENGE KNIVES-SAMA AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?
YOU NEVER FAIL TO EXCEED EVEN MY HIGHEST EXPECTATIONS.
TRULY WONDERFUL.
IN THAT CASE, ALL OF THIS WAS INEVITABLE.
WE BOTH KNOW WHAT THE END RESULT WILL BE...SO WHY DON'T WE KILL EACH OTHER?


IT SHOULD COME IN HANDY, CONSIDERING WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR YOU.
I WANT YOU TO KEEP THIS CASE WITH YOU UNTIL THEN.

"BUCHI"
FUHAH AHAH AHAHA HAHAHA HA!!!
TAKE CARE.
I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR DEBUT TOGETHER...

FIGHTERS WE ARE... VASH THE STAMPEDE !!
STAY STRONG !!
I'M GETTING A REALLY BAD FEELING...
....

IN FACT, AS OF NOW, WE ACTUALLY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE.
IT'S ALRIGHT.
DUMMY

HE MAY BE A MONSTER... BUT IF WE COME AT HIM STRONG TOGETHER, I DOUBT HE'LL BE TALKING BIG FOR LONG.
WE'LL TAKE HIM ON TOGETHER.

IT'LL BE HARD TO TELL WHEN AND WHERE EVERYTHING WILL START.
THIS IS GOING TO BE A FLAT-OUT MELEE... AN AMALGAMATION OF ALL THEIR REMAINING POWER.
LISTEN UP, LIVIO.
HUH?
THE PRO-BLEM ...
...IS "IT."
OH.
I GET IT.
WITH LEGATO, THOUGH, I KNOW THE WAY HIS MIND WORKS -- HE'S GOING TO COME STRAIGHT FOR ME, WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT.
DEALING WITH HIM ANY OTHER WAY WOULD ONLY ADD TO THE DANGER OF THE SITUATION.
...
IF HE DOES COME AFTER US...YOU'RE THE ONLY LINE OF DEFENSE WE'VE GOT!!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU. LIKE, SERI-OUSLY...
AHH!!!
YOU KNOW...THE CRAZY...UM... TRANSVESTITE ..THING.
HE'S SUPER-DANGEROUS. ..IN PRETTY MUCH EVERY CATEGORY YOU COULD THINK OF.
"IT?"

TO BE COUNTED ON BY YOU... MAKES ME TRULY HAPPY.

....

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

REMEMBER ...I AM AN EX-MEMBER OF THE EYE OF MICHAEL, YOU KNOW.

THEN I DON'T HAVE THE CHOICE TO BE UNPREPARED, DO I?

ELENDRIA THE CRIMSON-NAIL MUST BE A MONSTER TOO, RIGHT?

...YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ENTIRELY CONVINCED YET.

NO M ATTER HOW USELESS I MAY BE... I HAVE SHED A LOT OF BLOOD IN ORDER TO MASTER THE POWERS OF THIS DEVIL BODY.

TO USE IT IN ORDER TO PROTECT SOMETHING IMPORTANT WOULD BE A PLEASURE BEYOND ANYTHING ELSE I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED.

I DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD 'DEFEAT.'

AND IN ADDITION TO THAT--

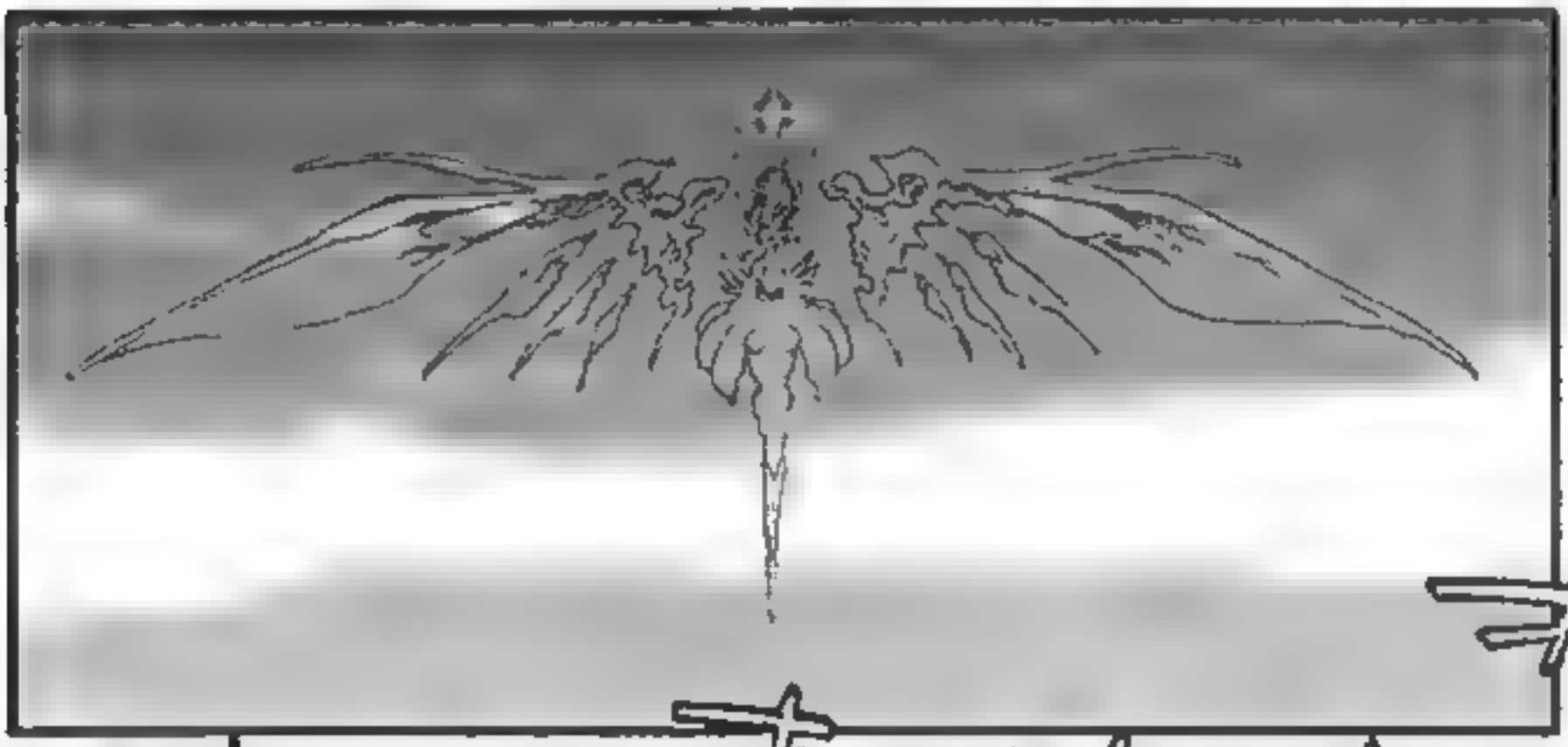
Names are not mentioned.
But not only names ...

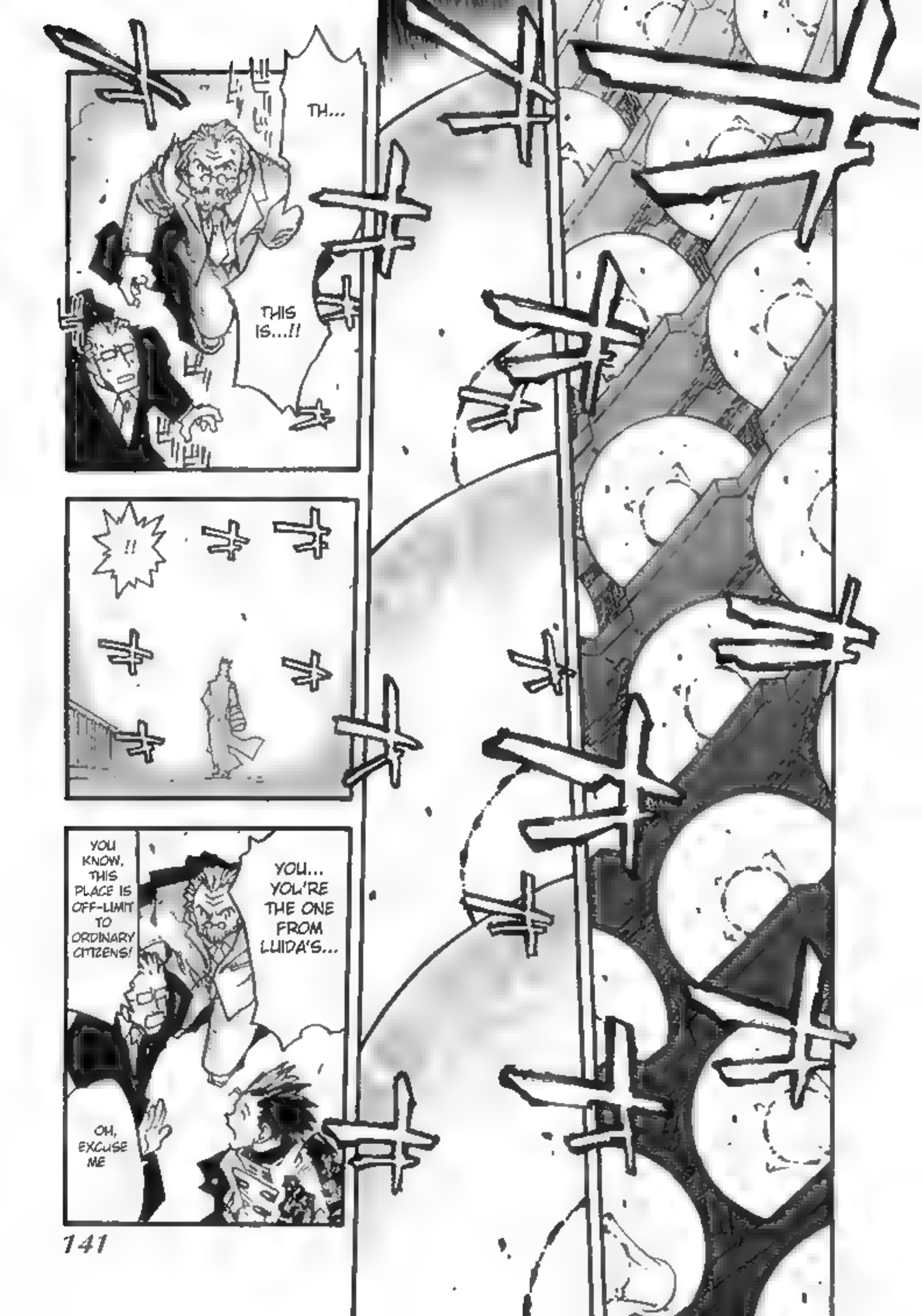
...IS THAT SO...?

In order to stay strong, strong emotions are kept hidden in the deepest regions of one's heart.
YOU SAID IT, BROTHER-!!
ARGH!!
Emotions that come naturally are also hidden away.

he most likely still carried some of the same things within his own heart.
WHO CARES, STUPID, COME ON?!
BUT ...YOUR HAND IS..!!
When Vash the Stampede truly realized this, it was because...

STARDATE YEAR 0014. JULY 21st 5:01:02.




TH...
THIS IS...!!
!!
YOU KNOW, THIS PLACE IS OFF-LIMIT TO ORDINARY CITIZENS!
YOU... YOU'RE THE ONE FROM LUIDA'S...
OH, EXCUSE ME

HAS THE "ABSORPTION" ALREADY BEGUN!?

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON OVER THERE?!

UM.. YES.

YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT DECEMBER, AM I CORRECT?

MORE IMPORTANTLY

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, MAYOR...

I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD LET ME INTO THE UPPER LEVELS SO I...

VASH!!

THE "ARK" IS, AT BEST, BARELY PAST THE HORIZON LINE. FROM THIS DISTANCE, IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER PLANET, RIGHT?

IT'S STILL MUCH TOO FAR AWAY!

AH... DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.

TRUST ME, EVERYTHING IS A-OK!

THIS MORNING, THERE WAS A STRANGE OCCURANCE.

'THEIR' VOICES WERE...

LUIDA-KUN, SHOULDN'T THEY STILL BE ALRIGHT...?

EH?

WELL, I HAD TO DO SOME HANDIWORK ON THESE DANGEROUS EXPLOSIVES, SO I...

AND HOW'D THEY TURN OUT?

GREAT!

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU ALL OVER THE PLACE!

AH, LUIDA!

WHY DID YOU LEAVE ALL OF A SUDDEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT LIKE THAT?

EVERY ONE ...

THEY'RE FRIGHTENED BEYOND BELIEF.

AND THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME LEFT.

THEY CAN ALL FEEL IT...SOMETHING TERRIBLE WILL HAPPEN TONIGHT.

IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO PART FROM THEIR CREATORS WITHOUT TROUBLE?

SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN CREATED BY HUMANS...

--NO.

WE WILL CHANGE IT OURSELVES.

THE SITUATION TRULY WILL CHANGE...AS A RESULT OF THESE MILLIONS OF OPINIONS AND THOUGHTS BEING EXCHANGED.

SO THEN, AFTER ALL...

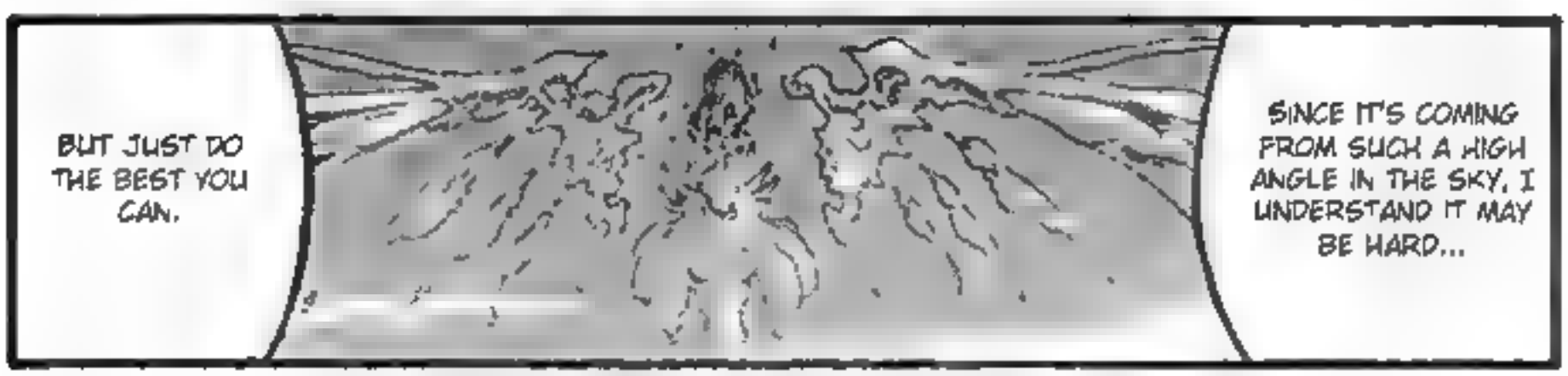
WHICH ANSWER IS THE CORRECT ONE?

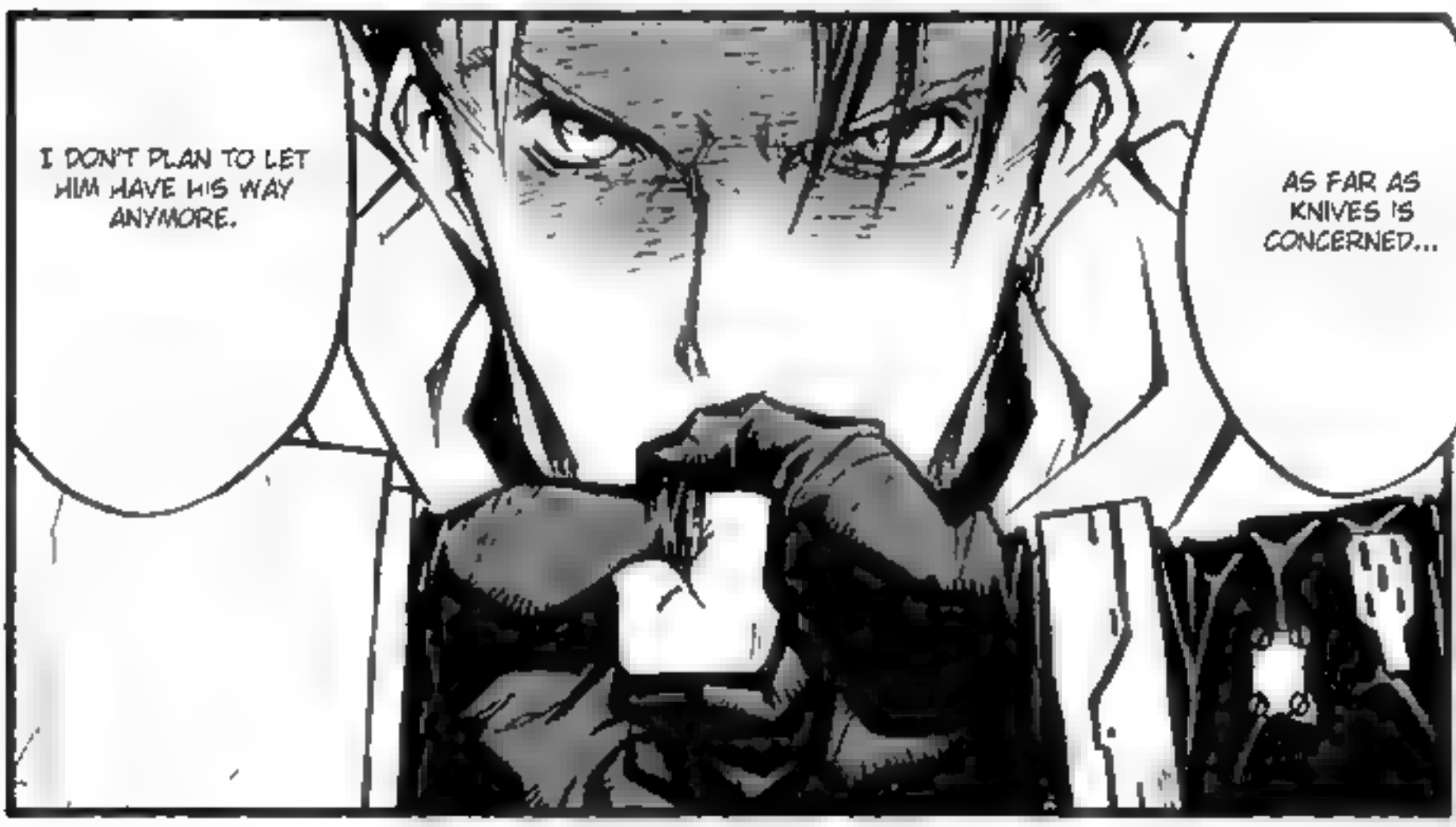
BEFORE DECIDING, SHOULD WE WAIT FIRST?

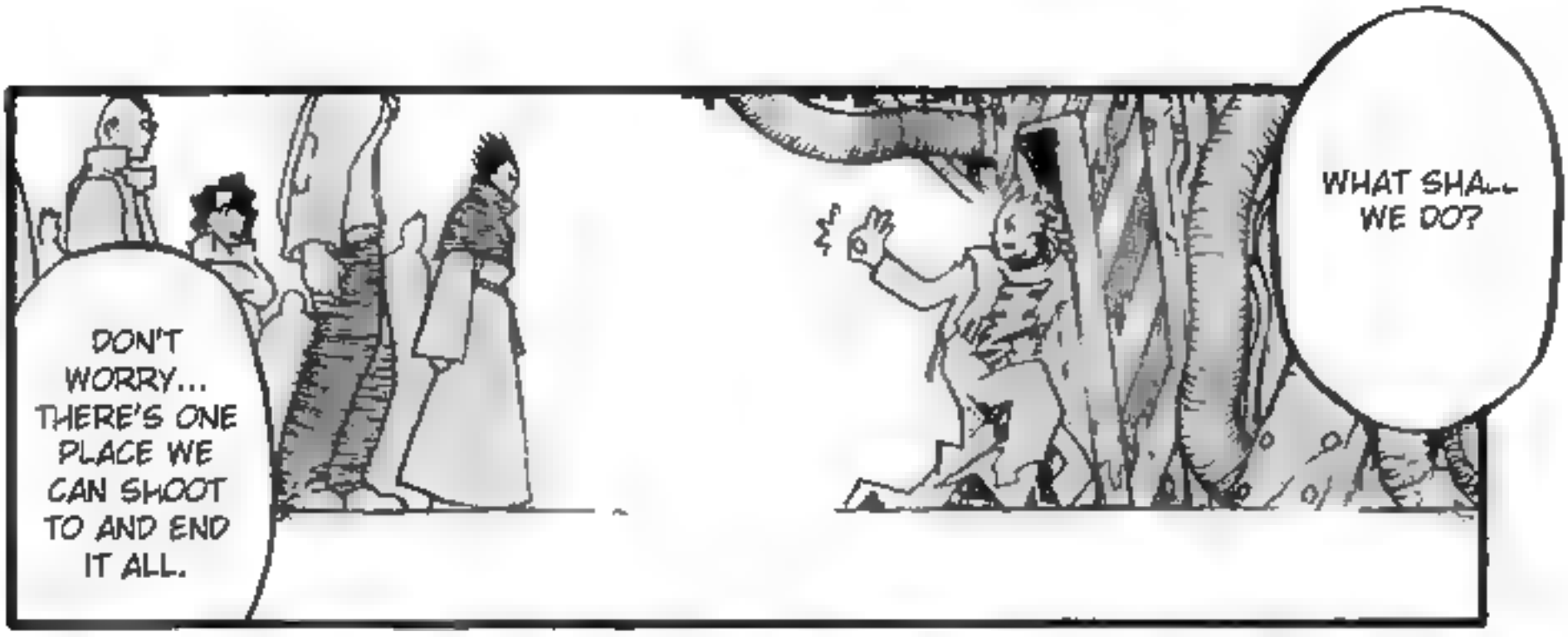
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING THAT THE FLEET CAN DO TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION?

. WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE.
I THINK.

WE WOULDN'T WANT TO HURT THEM.
WHEN ATTACKING IT, BE SURE TO KEEP IN MIND THE "WOMEN" INSIDE.
THAT'S WHY, AS FAR AS THE "ARK" IS CONCERNED...

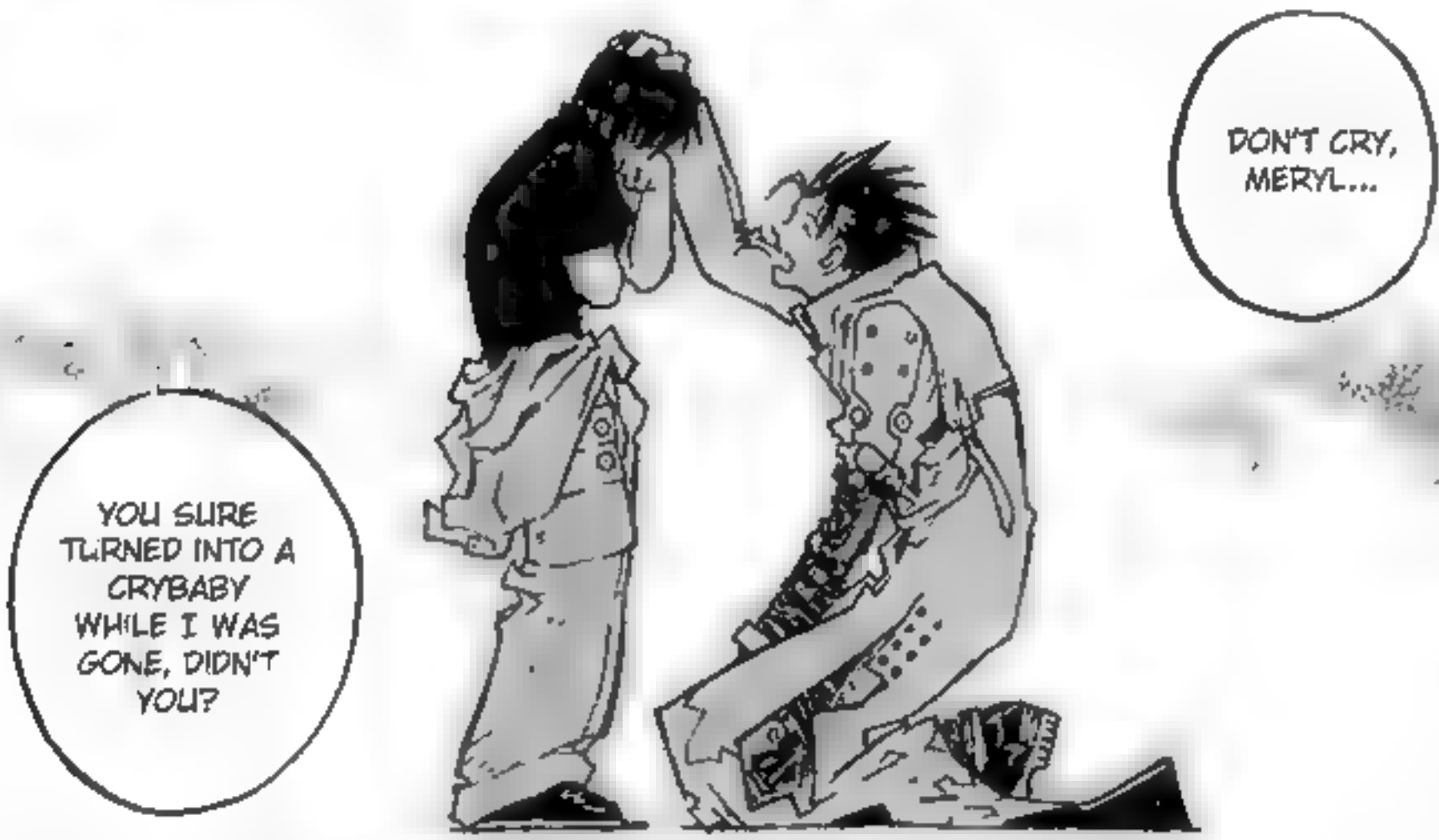

BUT JUST DO THE BEST YOU CAN.
SINCE IT'S COMING FROM SUCH A HIGH ANGLE IN THE SKY, I UNDERSTAND IT MAY BE HARD...


I DON'T PLAN TO LET HIM HAVE HIS WAY ANYMORE.
AS FAR AS KNIVES IS CONCERNED...



STARDATE YEAR 0014. JULY 21st. 09:55:13.

SO...HE'S AIMING TO CHANNEL THAT POWER, HUH?
THAT WAY, NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF GATE THEY HAVE, EVEN IF THEY START TO CLOSE IT, A SMALL HOLE WILL STILL REMAIN -- AND THERE'S OUR CHANCE!!

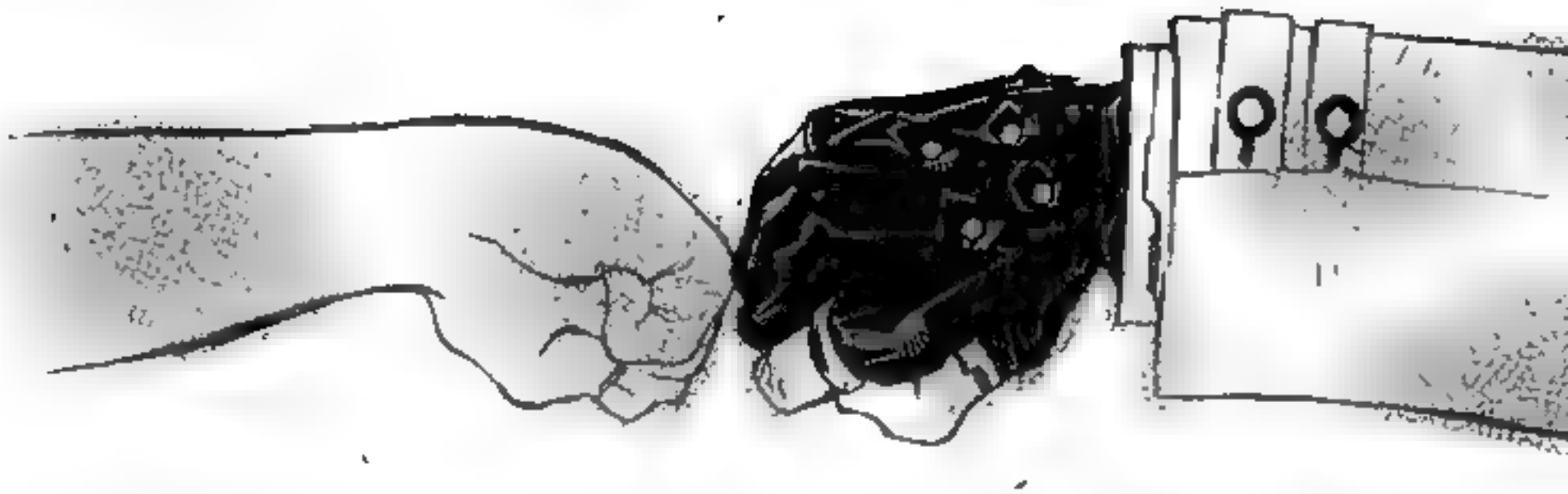

DON'T CRY, MERYL...
YOU SURE TURNED INTO A CRYBABY WHILE I WAS GONE, DIDN'T YOU?

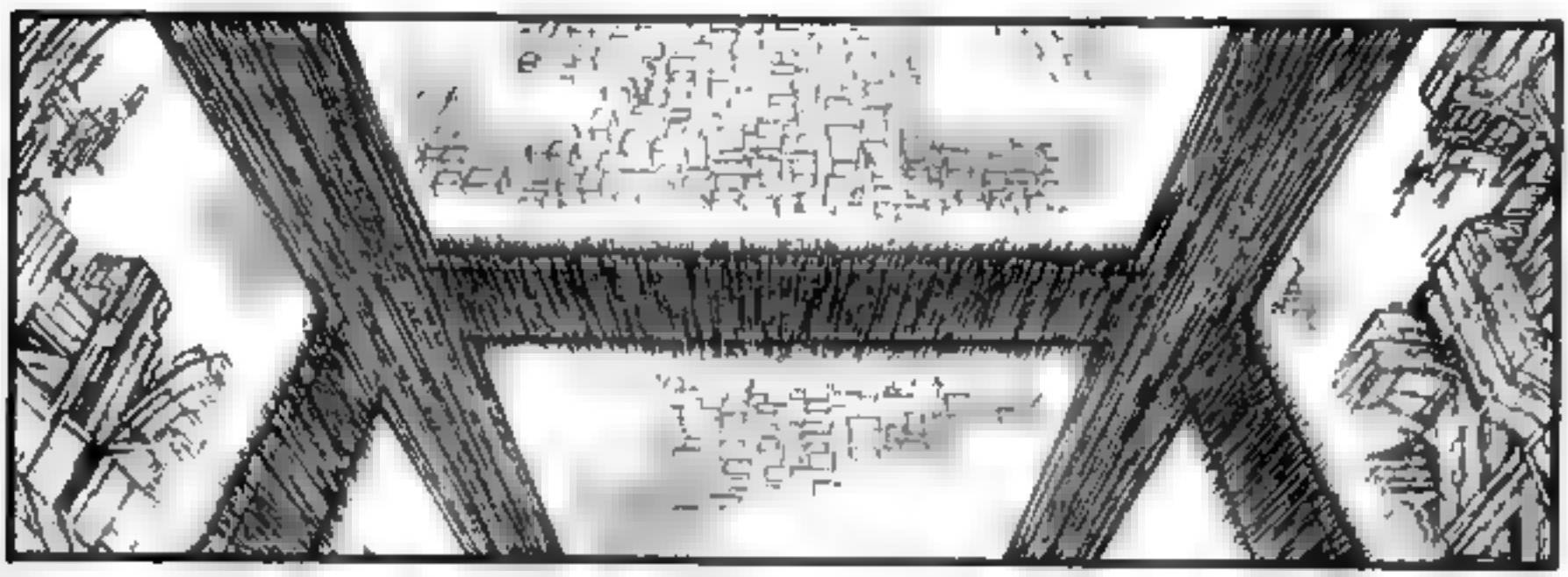
YOU DON'T REALLY THINK THAT, DO YOU?
DO YOU THINK I'LL LOSE THAT EASILY?!

OKAY, OKAY!!

SENPAI IS JUST A NORMAL WOMAN!!!
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF THINKING OF HER AS SOME KIND OF IRON WOMAN ANYWAY!?!? THIS IS EXACTLY HOW I WOULD ACT TOO!!

....
MERYL!!





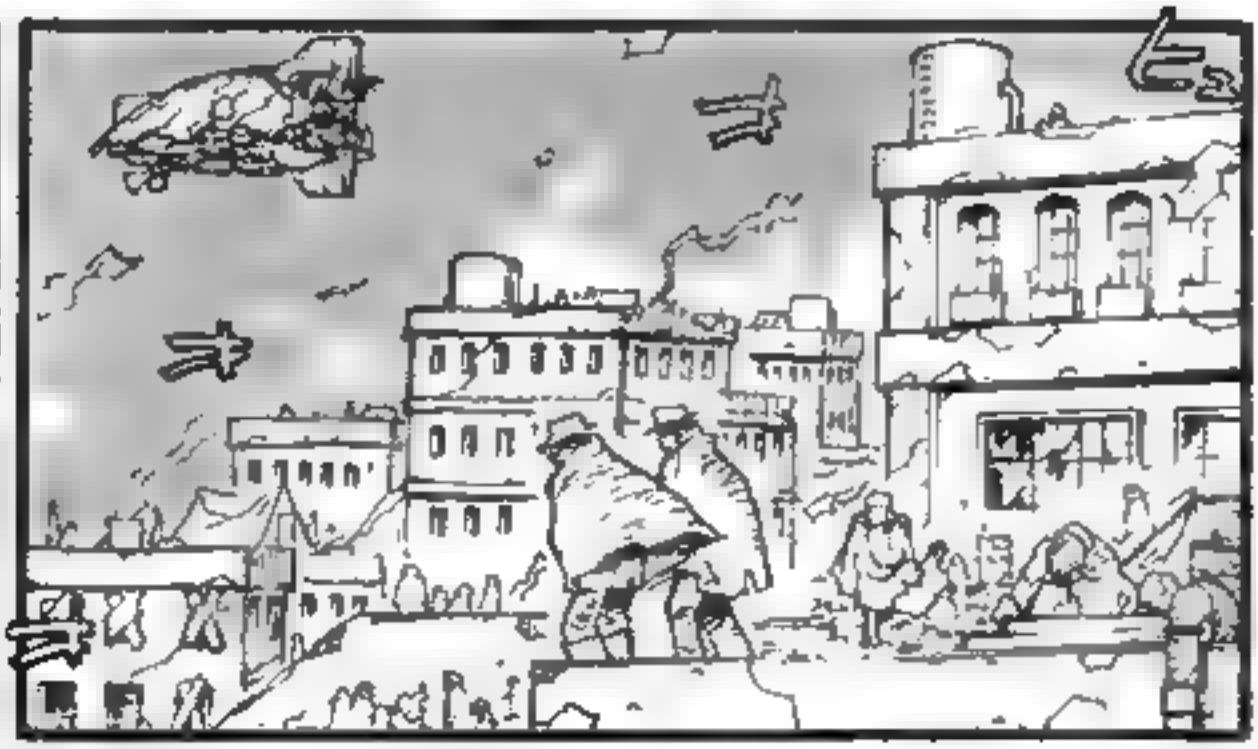
YOU MEAN, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, YOU STILL DON'T KNOW HIS NAME...?
PLEASE, TELL US...

IN THAT CASE, THERE IS MUCH I HAVE TO ASK HIM ABOUT.
SO, THAT NAME ...
I SEE.

Of all the names..! don't believe this!!
Must be a pain to write
"VASH THE STAMPEDE"?

AND THEN, WITH HIS APPROVAL...I WOULD LIKE TO BRING THE TRUTH TO LIGHT.
EVERYTHING IS ABOUT TO END, SO I WOULD TRULY LIKE TO SIT AND TALK WITH HIM FOR A BIT.

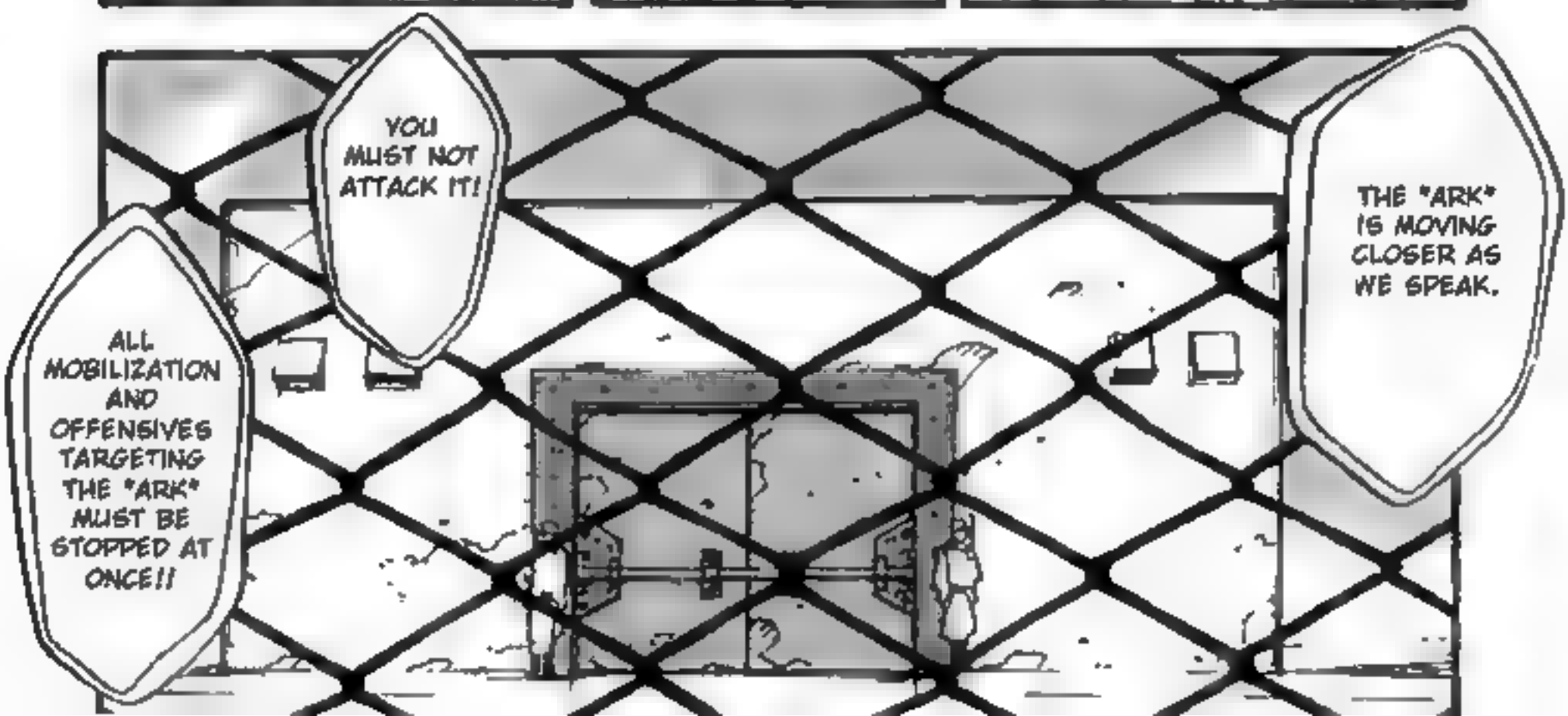
NOTIFYING ALL THOSE WHO REMAIN OF THE HUMAN RACE.
THIS IS A REQUEST FROM YOUR MAYOR.

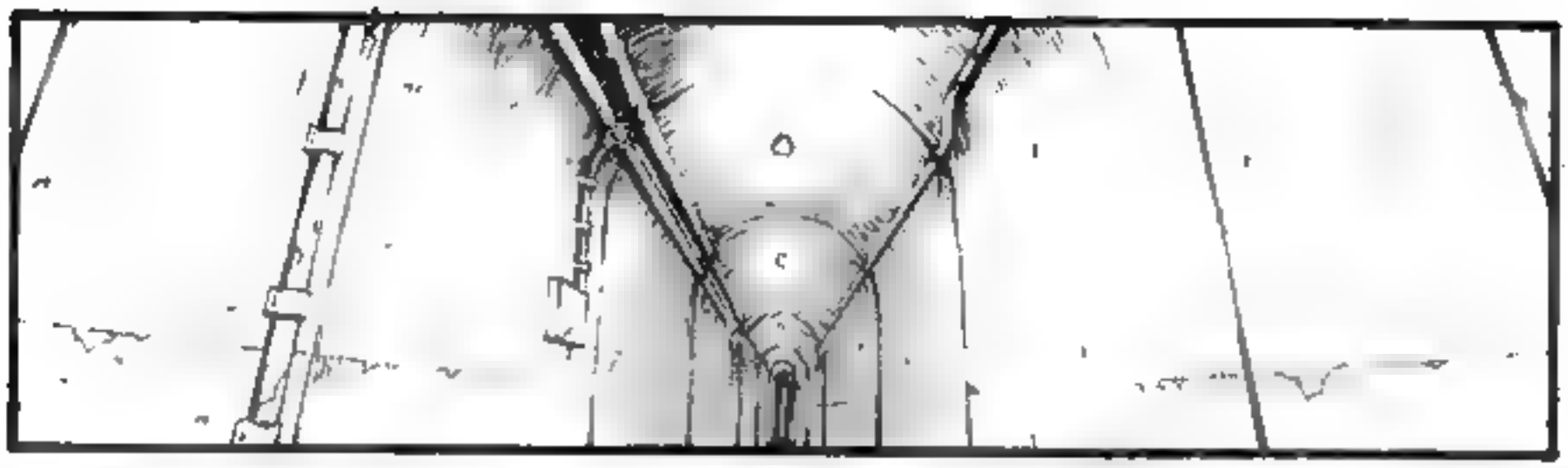


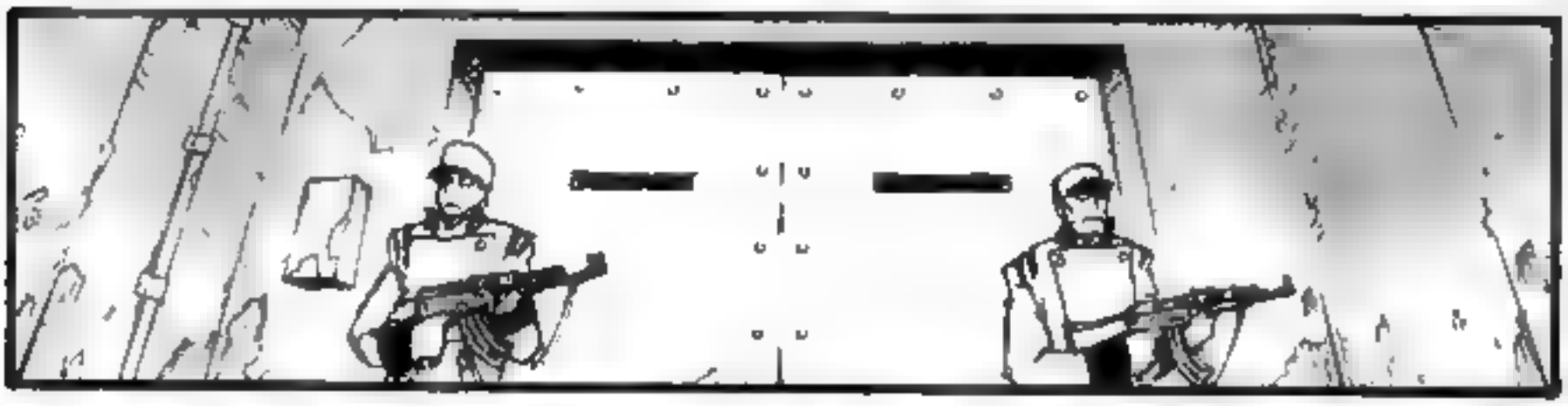
SAY WHAAAAT?!

AS TIME IS RUNNING OUT, AND THE "ARK" IS STEADILY APPROACHING... WE REQUEST THAT ALL OPERATIONS TOWARD ATTACKING IT ARE CEASED IMMEDIATELY.

WE REQUEST THAT ALL PREPARATIONS TO SHOOT DOWN THE "ARK" BE SHUT DOWN.







STARDATE 0014. JULY 21ST. 10:20:23.

STARDATE 0014. JULY 21ST. 10:59:49.

ROGER! DATA WILL BE TRANSFERRED IMMEDIATELY.

PLEASE TRANSFER IT TO THE MAIN MONITOR.

WE'VE RECEIVED A LARGE MAGNIFICATION FROM THE SPACE PROBE!!

EH!

IT RESEMBLES ONE, BUT.! DOES SUCH A CREATURE EXIST?

A BIRD...AN INSECT?

WHAT... WHAT IS THIS?!

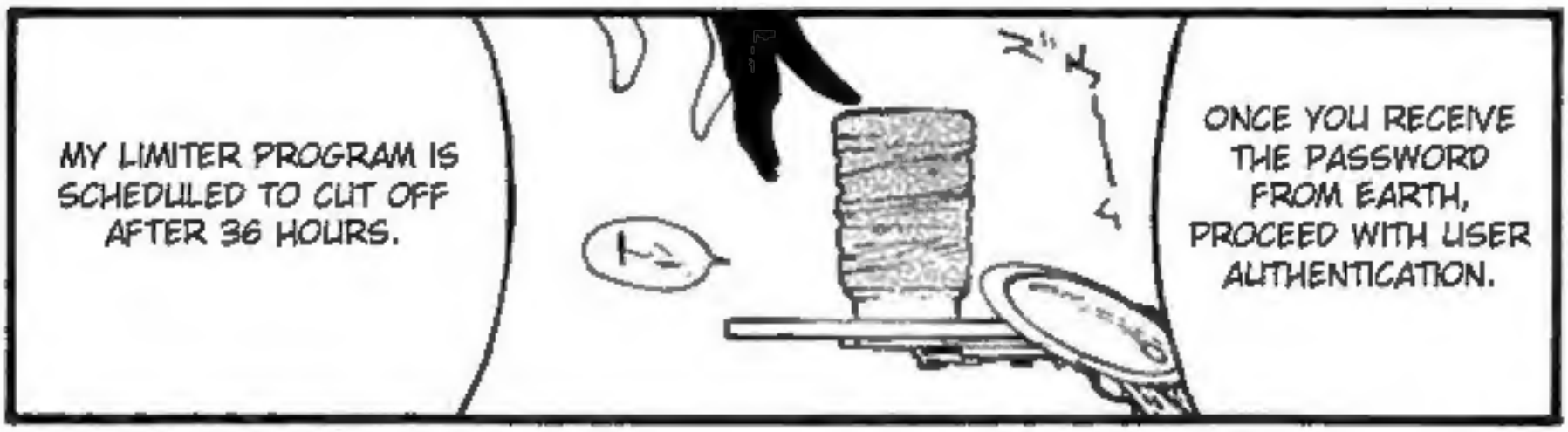
* THE NAME FOR THE INTERMEDIATE BIOMOLECULE TO WHICH DONOR DNA AND TARGET DNA COVALENTLY ATTATCH DURING THE MIGRATION OF SOME DNA TRANSPOSONS

IT'S A... "COINTEGRATION."

IT SEEMS AS IF THE WORST POSSIBLE SITUATION HAS OCCURED, CAPTAIN.

HOW SHOULD THIS SITUATION BE DEALT WITH?
CHRONICA.
YES...
SEND A TELEGRAPH TO EARTH.

ARM ALL TROOPS AND PUT THEM ON ACTIVE DUTY.
CHANGE THE FLEET FORMATION TO "DD."
PLEASE SET UP THE S-1-S MONITORING SYSTEM.


MY LIMITER PROGRAM IS SCHEDULED TO CUT OFF AFTER 36 HOURS.
ONCE YOU RECEIVE THE PASSWORD FROM EARTH, PROCEED WITH USER AUTHENTICATION.

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE OUR OPPONENT JUMPS INTO ACTION AS WELL, SO..
I WANT YOU TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED WITH A PREEMPTIVE STRIKE.

#5: Get ready, Get set, / END

TRIGUN MAXIMUM

YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

DEEP SPACE PLANET FUTURE GUN ACTION!!